

**State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities**  
**Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b**  
**Minutes for the meeting of March 6, 2013**  
NH Department of Education  
Room 15  
**4:30pm - 7:00 pm**

**In attendance:** Daniel Ward, Mike Pinard, Lynda Thistle Elliott, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Maureen Tracey, Renea Sparks, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Catherine Meister, Ellen Boudreau, Jennifer Fischer, Janet Reed, Dick Cohen and Sarah Cooley.

**Guests:** David Boudreau, Santina Thibedeau

**Agenda Item I:** Welcome, Introductions, Approval of minutes

- Renea Sparks welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.
- The February minutes were tabled until the April meeting to get clarifications before approval.

**Agenda Item II:** Public Comment

- No Public comment

**Agenda Item III:** Correspondence

- FY'13 Bureau of Special Education Memo #12 was received, relative to the Indicator 8 Parent Survey Administration.
- SAC membership recommendation letters were sent to the governor's office.

**Agenda Item IV:** Updates on Data Driven Enterprise (DDE) Meeting and Bureau of Special Education

- At the DDE meeting held recently, there were, Parent Information Center (PIC), Disability Rights Center (DRC), New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators (NHASEA) and New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). Data Driven Enterprises presented a 24 page report of their evaluation. There was good discussion from the group; their main focus was on the monitoring piece of all indicators. A copy of the report is available for SAC members interested in reviewing it. It was suggested to have a current presentation on the Indicators from the Bureau, possibly in May or June. There will be an additional evaluation in 2015.

- Update from Bureau of Special Education: Santina Thibedeau gave an overview of the Federal Sequestration and what agencies might be affected by this. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is giving input to the Bureau of Special Education as they are our funding source. Per OSEP, there will be a 5 % reduction ~ 2.2 million in cuts just for special education – IDEA part b. On their website they do have a state by state reduction report that can be accessed at: <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/02/sequestration-would-hurt-students-teachers-and-schools/>. This would be staff reduction-NH may have 27 positions cut. The 22 million equates to 27 positions per the Federal Government website (per Renea Sparks). Districts are still obligated to provide services to students. Districts have already worked on their budgets as well. There was discussion of how communities will suffer with these cuts; parent against parent, neighbor against neighbor. Today the house passed the sequestration bill through March 27. Once it goes to the senate, maybe sequestration cuts would be minimized or eliminated. Santina comments that we do not know yet, the full impact of the sequestration. Dick Cohen suggested that SAC compose a short letter on how the sequestration will impact students with disabilities, in addition to the budget cuts already; and send to Commissioner Barry at the NHDOE. Also, send to Governor Hassan, and the NH congressional delegation.  
*Janet Reed* made a motion that Dick Cohen; Bonnie Dunham, Chair; and Renea Sparks, Co-Chair; will draft a letter on concerns of the sequestration and identify areas that outlines the concerns. The letter will go to Commissioner Barry, cc'd to Governor Hassan, and four federal delegates. Send out the letter to SAC members as well. All in favor, no abstentions, none opposed. *Catherine Meister* seconded the motion.

#### **Agenda Item VI:** Old/New Business:

- Who cares about Kelsey project: Maureen Tracey updated SAC on the “Legislative Awareness day” where legislators would be invited to come and view the six mini clip videos with this project, as well as having stakeholder groups have their information available. A date was chosen that is good for Dan Habib ~ Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm. Refreshments will be provided by SAC and stakeholder groups. In the later part of the afternoon, the movie would be shown. Would need to have SAC members commit to being there for the event to greet and talk about the movie. At the April SAC meeting the agenda will have time to decide specific details, what message should be given, personal studies, pamphlets etc. Also, have awareness on house/senate bills already out there with the background etc. A subgroup was created to do pre planning of this event; Maureen Tracey and Janet Reed. Other members can email Terry Stafford to volunteer for this and will forward names to Maureen. Terry to also call St. Paul’s church on Park Street to inquire about use of their facility.

#### **Agenda Item VII:** Membership

- A motion was made by Candace Cole-McCrea to have Jack Curtin (student with disability) be nominated for SAC membership. Daniel Ward, seconded the motion. All in favor.

- Kim Carpinone has resigned. A motion was made by Dick Cohen and seconded by Ellen Boudreau to accept her resignation.

**Agenda Item VIII:** Other Issues:

- Catherine Meister would like discussion/presentation on the Interface Communication of Foster care and NHDOE. She suggested that she could bring someone for a future meeting. May be able to add to May meeting or June.
- How can PBIS be offered statewide, but not mandated. There are three critical issues in schools; bullying, school violence, and academic achievement. PBIS can address all three. There would need to be a strong and rigorous evaluation. Would SAC want to support a bill on this. Renea suggests the subcommittee create a draft and bring to SAC as a whole, then make a recommendation to the Department.

**Agenda Item IX:** Adjournment

- Dick Cohen made a motion to adjourn, and Janet Reed seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.